

[Translation]

Closed Textile Mills

*54. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to states:

(a) the total number of NTC and State Textile Corporations owned as well as mills in the private sector closed during the last three years in the country, as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of textile mills closed in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh during the above period along with the number of workers rendered jobless in each mill; and

(c) the position of their rehabilitation and payments of provident fund in each mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) The number of mills closed in the last 3 years State-wise as on date is as under:—

Andhra Pradesh	11
Assam	0
Bihar	1
Gujarat	22
Haryana	3
Karnataka	2
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	8
Orissa	0
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	2
Tamil Nadu	25
Uttar Pradesh	3
West Bengal	2
Delhi	3
Manipur	0
Daman & Diu	1

As far as the mills under National Textile Corporation (NTC) are concerned, no mill under NTC has been closed under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, as wages and salaries continue to be paid. However, Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi under NTC (DP&R) Ltd. has been closed as per

the orders/directions of the Supreme Court of India regarding relocation/closure of the polluting industries. The workers of Ajudhia Textile Mills have been paid enhanced additional compensation as per the orders of the Supreme Court.

(b) and (c) M/s Indore Textiles Ltd., Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh has been closed, affecting 1792 workers. As per the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act., 1985, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) is entrusted with the responsibility of taking measures for rehabilitation of the sick industrial companies. The Government has also established Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme to provide interim relief to the workers rendered jobless due to permanent/partial closure of the mills. As far as the private sector mills and mills of the State Textile Corporations are concerned, details of the P.F. dues/ payments are not maintained.

[English]

Quantitative Restriction

*55. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE to be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign countries are pressurising India to remove Quantitative Restrictions (QR) on imports;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to settle the phasing out of Quantitative Restrictions with United States and other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) Pursuant to the meeting of the Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held on 20–21 January 1997, India had presented a plan for the elimination of all residual quantitative restrictions on imports maintained for balance of payments purposes to the WTO. This plan was considered by the WTO Committee on Balance of Payments Restrictions in June-July 1997, when noting the divergence of opinion among WTO Members on the plan, it was agreed to conclude the consultations. Subsequently, six WTO Members, namely, Australia, Canada, the European Communities, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United States of America, requested consultations with India under Article XXII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes. During these consultations agreement has been reached with Canada, the EC and